

Name: **Standard Allotment WY-030-16N84W26-2012**

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?

No X **Yes** _____ (if yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas):

a) Inventory Source: _____

b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s): ____

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s): _____

d) BLM District (s)/Field Office(s): _____

2. BLM Inventory Finds on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source: _____

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

a. Area Number/Name **Standard Allotment WY-030-16N84W26-2012** Acreage 15389.24

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Describe the boundaries of the area (roads, property lines, etc.). If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception. If more than one inventory area is involved, list the acres in each and evaluate each area/sub-area separately. In completing steps (1) – (5), use additional space as necessary.

The boundary of the area is mainly the boundary of this block of public land and a couple of miles of road (County Road 387, County Road 303 and Highway 130). Some interior boundaries are state and private inholdings. The primary land use is livestock grazing.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The unit has gently to moderate sloping topography. The vegetation of the unit is sagebrush grassland. The primary uses include livestock grazing, hunting, sightseeing, horseback riding, ORV use, and ATV use. There are gravel pits in the area. There is some dumping of garbage.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A ☐

Description: The 92.72 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) and .24 miles of wilderness inventory roads (i.e., well access roads) detract from the unit's naturalness. Examples of these primitive routes and wilderness inventory roads are demonstrated in the large-scale aerial photo. When hiking across the Standard Allotment Unit, the casual observer cannot escape the constant view of primitive routes. These primitive routes create noticeable linear intrusions and disturbances that interrupt the experience of any wilderness character briefly encountered in areas untrammelled by the works of man.

The area contains one oil and gas well throughout the Standard Allotment Unit (see location in the large-scale aerial photo). This oil and gas installation within the unit represents a permanent improvement. When examining the status of the oil and gas well, records indicated that this well was permanently abandoned in 1952. Since final reclamation has been well established, this well is not considered as a current detracting from the naturalness of the unit.

The Standard Allotment Unit also contains seven man-made reservoirs (see locations in large-scale aerial photo). When the casual observer encounters these man-made borrow pits and impounded reservoirs, the linear and textual contrast on the landscape attracts the attention of the observer to these modifications constructed with mechanized equipment.

The casual observer is often attracted to bodies of water while hiking. Water adds interest and diversity to the landscape. When arriving at any of the seven reservoirs, the casual observer would notice that it is not a natural lake and that they have encountered an impounded, muddy borrow pit. The hiker seeking refreshment from clean water, would quickly notice that this “reservoir” is designed for cattle operations where the water is unfit for human consumption or swimming. The numerous range improvements, including seven reservoirs, nine water wells, and six fences were constructed, primarily, for commercial grazing operations. These improvements give the casual observer a perception that they are visitors to a cattle range rather than a wilderness untrammelled by the works of man. While the presence of cattle is compatible with a natural landscape for wilderness inventory purposes, the noticeable presence of numerous grazing-related developments in this unit is not.

In sum, the cumulative impacts on naturalness including the numerous primitive routes and wilderness inventory roads, and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the Standard Allotment Unit to a level that is incompatible with the definitions of wilderness provided in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (incorporated in FLPMA 1976):

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

(3) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(4) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational scenic or historical value)?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

Summary of Analysis

Area Name and/or Number: Standard Allotment WY-030-16N84W26-2012

Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities of solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Check one:

_____ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

__X__ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by: Robert Epp

Team members:

Name	Title
Chris Jones	BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner
Pamela Murdock	BLM Project Manager
Erica Pionke	BLM Realty Specialist
Matt Simons	BLM Realty Specialist
Robert Epp	BLM Range Management Specialist
Rebecca Spurgin	BLM Assistant Field Manager- Resources
John Spehar	BLM Environmental Coordinator
Lynn McCarthy	BLM GIS Specialist

Reviewed by:

Dennis Carpenter, Field Manager

Date: _____